

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-20 are pending. Claims 4, 10 and 12 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4. Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 10 and 12. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carr. Claims 1-2 and 8 include the feature of the one or more socket connectors being collapsible so as to be substantially unnoticeable when void. The Office Action concedes that Carr does not disclose a collapsible socket.

The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Torok. Claims 9 and 11 include the feature of the socket being fashioned from a textile construction, and the socket being collapsible so as to be substantially unnoticeable when void. The Office Action concedes that Torok does not disclose a collapsible socket.

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Carr in view of Wu. This rejection is moot as to claim 4 which has been cancelled, but is relevant as to claims 1-2 and 8 which include the subject matter of cancelled claim 4. Claims 1-2 and 8 describe a collapsible socket that is substantially unnoticeable when void. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the non-collapsible socket of Carr with the design of Wu. However, applicants respectfully point out that the Wu socket is not a collapsible socket that is substantially unnoticeable when void. The Wu socket is a rigid structure that can rotate with respect to a circuit board to decrease its height when not in use, but as shown in the opened and closed positions of FIGS 3A and 3B, this clearly is not a collapsible socket that is substantially unnoticeable when void:

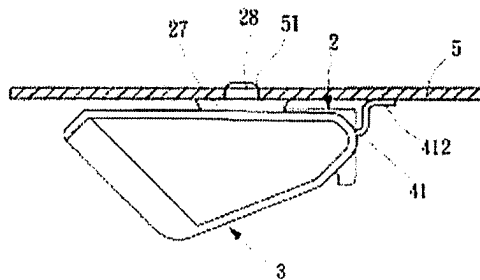


FIG. 3A

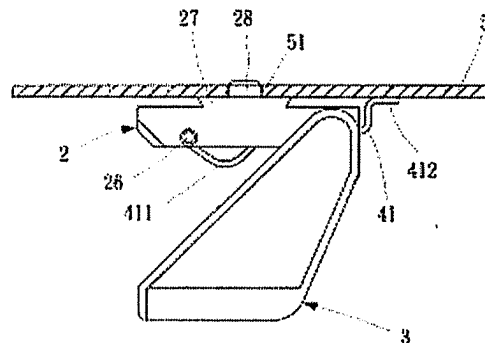


FIG. 3B

Given the rigid connection structure of socket 3, the Wu device simply cannot collapse so as to be substantially unnoticeable when void.

Moreover, Carr teaches against modifying its own rigid socket with a collapsible socket that is substantially unnoticeable when void. Carr is directed towards a rigid connector for a heating blanket that "reduces strain on the ends of the heating wire at the connection arrangement." (Carr col. 1, lines 30-33). To accomplish this objective, Carr utilizes a rigid connector having a rigid engagement member 72 as shown below:

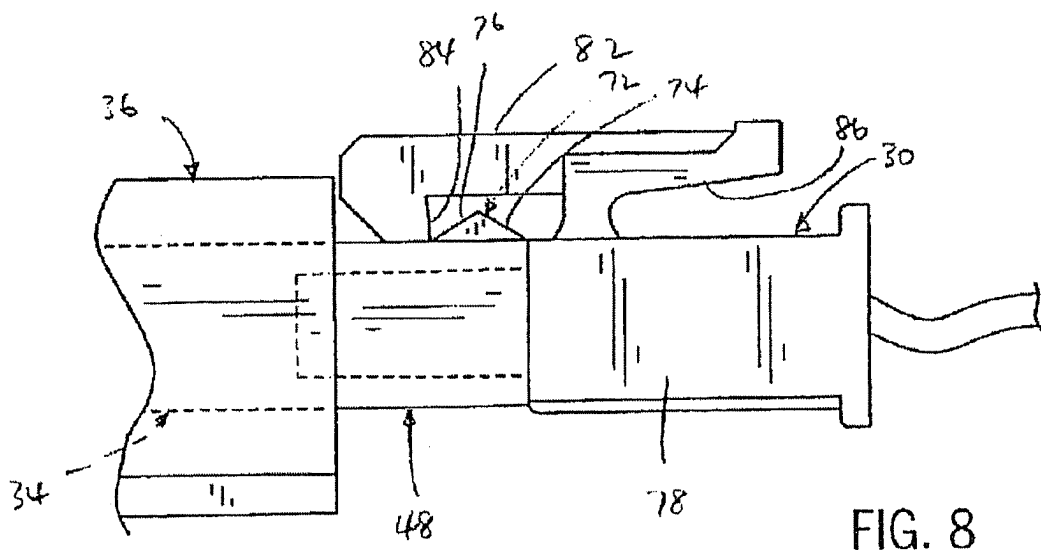
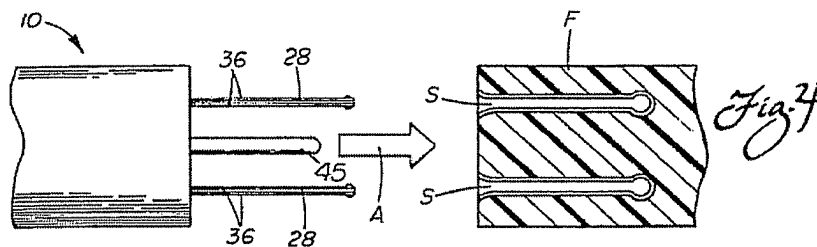


FIG. 8

To modify the rigid connector of Carr with a collapsible socket that is substantially unnoticeable when void, would render Carr unfit for its intended purpose of providing this rigid connection between the socket and the wiring.

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Carr in view of Torok, and rejects claim 12 as being obvious over Torok in view of Wu. These rejections are moot as to claims 10 and 12 which has been cancelled, but are relevant as to claims 9 and 11 which include the subject matter of cancelled claims 10 and 12. Claims 10 and 12 describe the socket being fashioned from a textile construction, and the socket being collapsible so as to be substantially unnoticeable when void. None of Carr, Torok, and Wu describe a socket that is a textile construction. Each of the sockets are rigid materials. None of Carr, Torok, and Wu describe a socket being collapsible so as to be substantially unnoticeable when void. Carr teaches away from such a modification as described above with respect to claims 1, 2 and 8. Torok

merely describes a plunger-like male connector of an extension cord to be connected with the corresponding female connector of a cord or outlet as shown below:



The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1 and 2 under obviousness-type double patenting based on Application Serial No. 10/560,711, and provisionally rejects claims 1, 2 and 8 under obviousness-type double patenting based on Application Serial No. 10/568,437. Applicants are filing herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome these rejections.

Accordingly, for at least the above-described reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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